

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: UNIVERSITY STRIKE APPEARS SETTLED

REF: A. KATHMANDU 2098
B. KATHMANDU 2240

1. TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY JUNE 6 ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD MEET THE MAJORITY OF STUDENT DEMANDS AND THAT UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION, POSTPONED SINCE STRIKES DISRUPTED CLASSES IN LATE MAY, WOULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE.
 2. SINCE THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS HAVE LEFT KATHMANDU AND RETURNED HOME, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MORE RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS. PRO-GOVERNMENT AND MODERATE STUDENT GROUPS, HOWEVER, HAVE WELCOMED THE ACCORD, AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS APPEAR CONFIDENT THAT CLASSES WILL RESUME IN JUNE WITHOUT FURTHER DISRUPTION.
 3. AMONG THE DEMANDS NOW ACCEPTED BY THE UNIVERSITY INCLUDE AGREEMENT TO REFORM THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION TO ALLOW "ALL CAPABLE STUDENTS" TO ENTER, A COMPROMISE WITH THE ORIGINAL REQUEST THAT ALL ENTRANCE EXAMS BE ABOLISHED. NEW REGULATIONS WILL BE PROMULGATED "IN CONFORMITY WITH THE NATIONAL
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CONSTITUTION" TO SET UP A NEW STUDENT UNION; LIBRARY FACILITIES

WILL BE REORGANIZED TO ALLOW GREATER ACCESS TO REQUIRED TEXTS; MEDICAL FACILITIES WILL BE IMPROVED; AND MORE HIGH LEVEL COURSES WILL BE OFFERED IN ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE. ALTHOUGH STUDENT DEMANDS FOR HIGHER STIPENDS PAID FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (A REQUIRED STINT IN RURAL AREAS) WERE NOT MET, IT WAS AGREED THAT NDS STUDENTS WOULD RECEIVE A TRANSISTOR RADIO PLUS 100 RUPEES IN OTHER MATERIALS DESIGNED TO MAKE THEIR LIVES EASIER IN UNDERDEVELOPED REGIONS.

4. ONE CRUCIAL POINT, HOWEVER, REMAINS UNRESOLVED. THE UNIVERSITY SAID IT WAS "BEYOND ITS PURVIEW" TO TAKE ACTION TO RELEASE STUDENTS STILL UNDER DETENTION AS A RESULT OF THE NEARLY THREE WEEKS OF RIOTS AND STRIKES WHICH CLOSED THE UNIVERSITY IN MAY. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT AN ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WHEREBY "ALMOST ALL" STUDENTS UNDER ARREST WILL BE QUIETLY RELEASED IN COMING WEEKS WITHOUT CHARGES BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THEM. SHOULD THIS IN FACT TAKE PLACE IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WILL RETURN TO CLASSES IN JUNE AND THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL BEGIN TO FUNCTION AGAIN. QUANTON

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